

wherein the electronic control unit operates the appliance in accordance with the selected one or more first functions based on the stored first information and the data supplied by the selection means or in accordance with the selected one or more second functions based on the stored second information and the data supplied by the external electronic device through the connection means.

REMARKS

We have carefully considered the Office Action dated February 21, 2002 in which all of the pending claims are rejected. We thank the Examiner for a telephone conference in which the invention and cited prior art were discussed. We have amended independent claim 32 to more particularly define first and second functions, as discussed below. Further, we have amended claims 9, 18 and 19 to clarify that the system displays data representing the current operating status of the appliance, and we have amended claim 16 to clarify that the utility functions are second functions.

The first functions are functions that a user can select using the control panel of the appliance, and second functions are those that a user can not select using the control panel. As discussed with the Examiner, the first functions can be *any* type of function that can be selected in *any* manner through the buttons or dials of the control panel, or a remote control device that mimics the control panel and/or serves to re-program the control panel. Thus, the functions originally assigned to the control panel and the extra functions that a user or a manufacturer specifically programs into an appliance and assigns to one or more of the control panel buttons or dials, such as those discussed in Schwarzbacker et al., Column 3, lines 35-45, are by definition first functions. Accordingly, the first functions are defined by the way in which a user accesses or selects the functions, not by the particular operations or steps of the functions themselves.

The second functions referred to in pending claim 32 are those that can not be selected using the control panel or a remote control device that mimics and/or re-programs the control panel – regardless of how the control panel may be re-programmed and/or re-configured by the user and/or manufacturer. As set forth in pending claim 32, the second

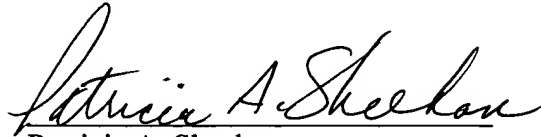
functions can be selected *only* through use of the connection device. The user thus supplies the necessary parameter values and so forth through the connection device, to select one or more predetermined second functions. Accordingly, the current invention eliminates the need for a more complicated control panel in which any extra functionality is provided through the use of extra buttons or knobs and/or having the user and/or manufacturer re-program a conventional control panel by assigning additional operations to the conventional buttons or knobs of the control panel, as discussed in the cited Schwarzbacker et al patent. In contrast, as set forth in Column 4, lines 57 et seq., special knowledge of the various operations of the appliance is required to re-program the control pane of the Schwarzbacker appliance using the remote control, as set forth in Column 4, lines 57 et seq.

The current invention thus provides to the user a conventional control panel that is used in a conventional manner to provide first functions, functionality, and a connection device through which the user has access to additional or second functions, without altering the operations available through the control panel. Also, the current invention allows a user to take advantage of the second functions without the user having to have special knowledge of how to re-program the appliance, as is required by the Schwarzbacker et al system. Accordingly, the Schwarzbacker et al. reference does not teach or suggest the current invention because, *inter alia*, the Schwarzbacker et al. system does not teach or suggest a system in which second functions that can not be selected through an appliance control panel can be selected through use of the connection means.

The claims, as amended as set forth above, should be in form for allowance. We respectfully request that the Examiner enter the amendments and reconsider the rejection of the pending claims and issue a notice of allowance for all pending claims.

Please charge any additional fee occasioned by this paper to our Deposit Account No.
03-1237.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Patricia A. Sheehan". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

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